



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE

2 KC MEN, 1 SEDALIA MAN PLEAD GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS AFTER MULTIPLE PREVIOUS FELONY CONVICTIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three felons, previously convicted of multiple felonies, pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, to illegally possessing firearms. The guilty pleas, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Kenneth W. Ray**, 35, of Sedalia, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 1, 2004, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Ray** admitted that he was in possession of a .38-caliber revolver on Oct. 14, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Ray** has a total of 10 previous criminal felony convictions including burglary, stealing and robbery.

* **Richard M. Davis**, 64, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 29, 2005, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Davis** admitted that he was in possession of a Cobray 9 mm semi-automatic assault weapon on Aug. 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Davis** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for forgery and being a felon in possession of a firearm, two 1995 criminal felony convictions for theft and forgery and a 1982 criminal felony conviction for counterfeiting.

* **Earl J. Whitmire**, 45, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge

Gary A. Fenner this morning to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 15, 2004, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Whitmire** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357-caliber Magnum revolver on Oct. 1, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Whitmire** has a total of 10 criminal felony convictions, including convictions for the sale of PCP, crack cocaine and marijuana.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. They were investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow